



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2012

# Sociology

# 41901

## Unit 1

**Tuesday 19 June 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is 41901.
- This paper is divided into **three** Topic Areas.

Topic 1: Answer **all** questions.

Topic 2: Answer **all** questions in Section 1 **and one** question from Section 2.

Topic 3: Answer **all** questions in Section 3 **and one** question from Section 4.

- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about **30 minutes** answering each of the **three** topics.

## Topic 1: Studying Society

You must answer **all** questions on this topic.

**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items A, B and C** and answer the questions that follow.

### Item A

#### School exclusion rates – by ethnic group of pupil

Ethnic group	Number of exclusions per 10 000 pupils	
	2003/4	2008/9
Bangladeshi	9	6
Black African	16	11
Black Caribbean	41	30
Indian	2	3
White British	14	9

### Item B

#### Pupils helped to 'Aim High'



Black and mixed race boys of African-Caribbean origin are among the lowest achieving groups within education. In 2004, for example, just 27% of this group of boys achieved five A\* – C grades at GCSE, compared with 52% of the school population as a whole.

In 2003, the government set up a programme called 'Aiming High' to help raise the achievement of African-Caribbean pupils. In 2006, a team of sociologists led by Leon Tikly evaluated the success of the project, using the research method of questionnaires to produce quantitative information about examination entries and rates of exclusion.

### Item C

#### Racist bullying in schools

A survey in 2009 found that nearly half of teachers say that racist bullying is a problem in their schools.

Since 2002, schools have been required to monitor and report all racist incidents to their local authority after changes to the Race Relations Act.

Figures for 2008–9 show that almost 30 000 racist incidents were reported by schools to local authorities in England and Wales. Of these, 10 436 were at primary schools. In 51 cases, police became involved.

Birmingham City Council had 1607 racist incidents, the highest number of any authority.

- 0 | 1** From **Item A**, which ethnic group had the highest rate of school exclusions during 2008/9? (1 mark)
- 0 | 2** From **Item B**, identify the research method used by Leon Tikly. (1 mark)
- 0 | 3** Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using Leon Tikly's research method, as referred to in **Item B**. (2 marks)
- 0 | 4** Study **Item C**. Describe how journalists may approach the issue of racism in British schools differently from sociologists. (4 marks)
- 0 | 5** Explain what sociologists mean by ethnicity. (4 marks)
- 0 | 6** Explain **one** way in which sociological research might help schools and educational authorities design policies to reduce racist bullying in schools. (4 marks)

**You have been asked as a sociologist to investigate the extent of racism in schools.**

- 0 | 7** Identify what sociologists mean by secondary data **and** explain how useful school racist incident figures would be for your investigation. (4 marks)
- 0 | 8** Identify **one** ethical issue that you may need to consider **and** explain why you need to consider this ethical issue for your investigation. (4 marks)
- 0 | 9** Identify **one** observational method that you would use **and** explain why it is better than another possible observational method for obtaining information for your investigation. (6 marks)

Turn over ►

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**Topic 2: Education**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.

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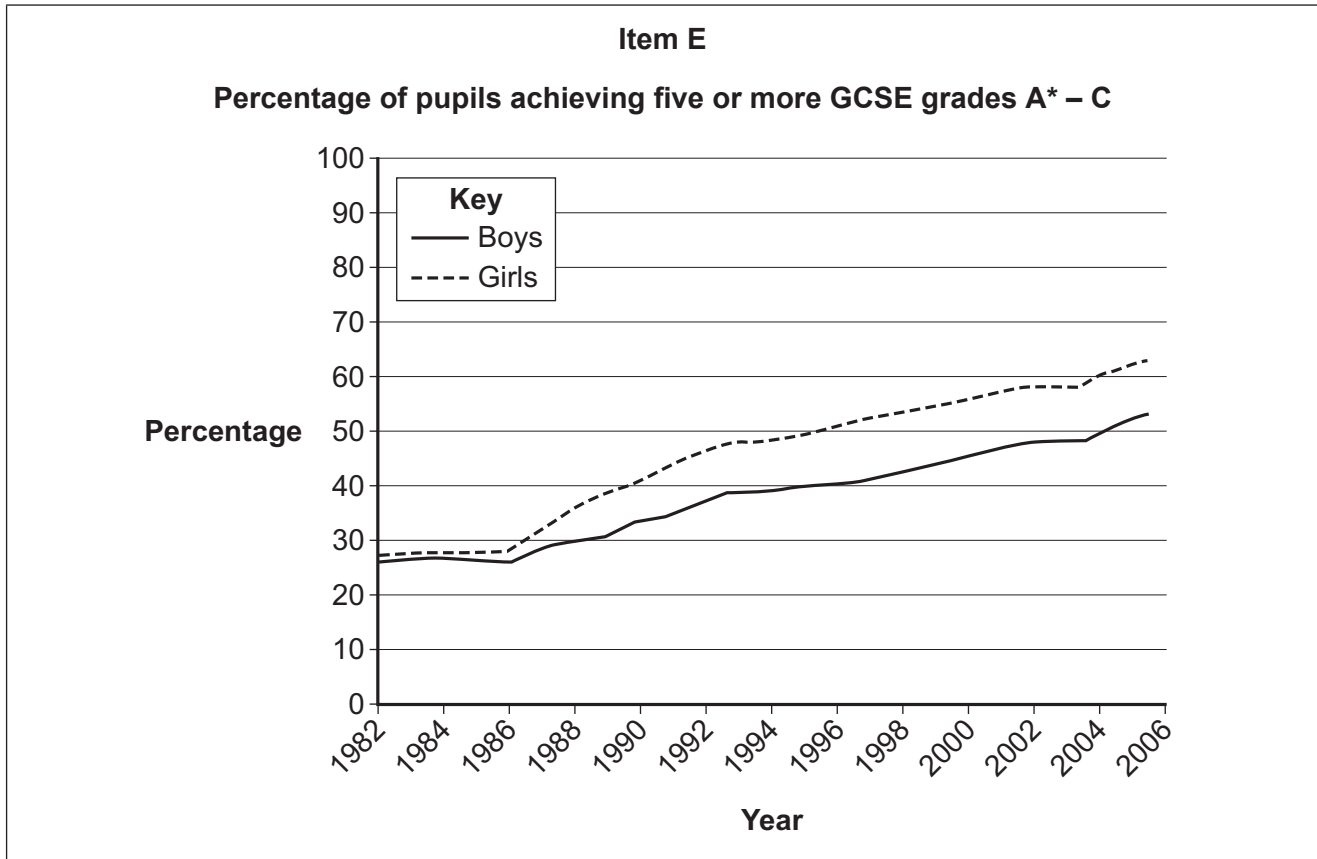
**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items D and E** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item D****Peer group pressure and young people's attitudes to education**

A survey of 4000 Tyneside teenagers found that peer pressure stops many pupils from studying or taking part in lessons. Researchers found that so-called 'charvers', a youth subculture, reject school as uncool and refuse to do GCSE coursework, meaning that they fail their exams. Instead, the most important thing to charvers was being well-thought of among their peers.

The researchers say that the situation could be the same across other cities in the United Kingdom, although the groups might have different names.



### Section 1

- 1 0** From **Item D**, what was the most important thing to charvers? (1 mark)
- 1 1** From **Item E**, what was the trend between 1986 and 2004, for both boys and girls, in their achievement of five or more GCSE grades A\* – C? (1 mark)
- 1 2** Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage for pupils of setting. (2 marks)
- 1 3** Explain what sociologists mean by the self-fulfilling prophecy. (4 marks)
- 1 4** Describe **one** way in which a school's performance is measured **and** explain how this may or may not be a good way of measuring the standards of a school. (5 marks)
- 1 5** Describe **one** function that education may perform for society **and** explain how this may benefit society. (5 marks)

### Section 2

#### EITHER

- 1 6** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that peer group pressure has a significant effect on a pupil's educational achievement. (12 marks)

#### OR

- 1 7** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the improvement in pupil achievement in examinations has been the result of educational reforms in the past 25 years. (12 marks)

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 3: Families**

Answer **all** questions in **Section 3** and **one** question from **Section 4**.

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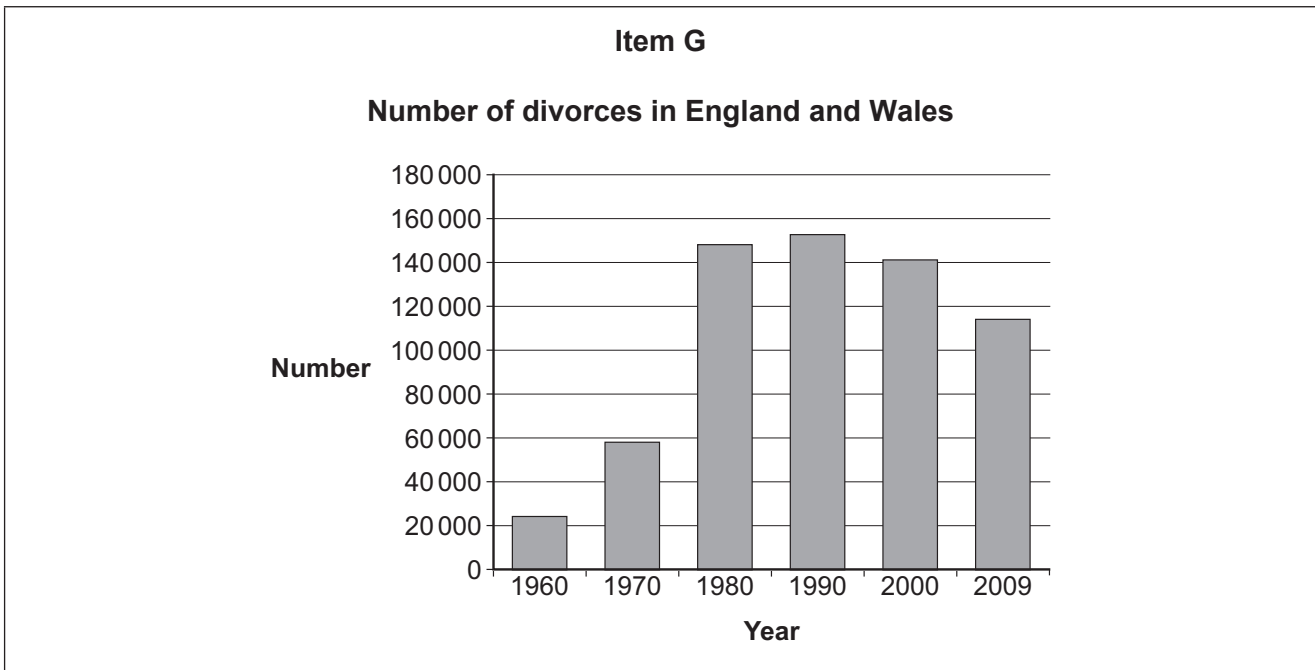
**Total for this topic: 30 marks**

Study **Items F and G** and answer the questions that follow.

**Item F****Paternity leave extended**

From 2011, new fathers may take up to six months' paternity leave. This should make it easier for parents to share childcare responsibilities because it would allow couples to take up to 12 months' leave from work between them.

Before 2011, men could only take up to two weeks' paternity leave. However, research suggested that only 4 in 10 men were taking the paternity leave to which they were entitled.



### Section 3

- 1 | 8** From **Item F**, what was the maximum period of paternity leave to which men were entitled before 2011? *(1 mark)*
- 1 | 9** From **Item G**, were there more divorces in England and Wales in 1970 or in 2009? *(1 mark)*
- 2 | 0** Identify **two** consequences of divorce for family members. *(2 marks)*
- 2 | 1** Explain what sociologists mean by primary socialisation. *(4 marks)*
- 2 | 2** Describe **one** family type found in Britain **and** explain how it is different from any **one** other family type. *(5 marks)*
- 2 | 3** Describe **one** way in which an individual's family or household situation might change over the course of their life, **apart from** divorce, **and** explain why this change may occur. *(5 marks)*

### Section 4

#### EITHER

- 2 | 4** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the roles of men and women in families have changed significantly in the past 50 years. *(12 marks)*

#### OR

- 2 | 5** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that changes in the divorce rate over the past 50 years are due to changes in the law. *(12 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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- Item B: photo © Getty Images. Text adapted from *National Curriculum Assessment GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2004*, Tables from the Statistical First Release, Table 3: Achievements at GCSE and Equivalent in 2004, by Ethnicity and Gender.  
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- Item C: *30,000 pupils branded as bigots*, by S HARRIS, 17/1/2011, Daily Mail, [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk)
- Item D: photo © Getty Images. Text adapted from *Gangs who fail exams on purpose*, news.bbc.co.uk, 2004, © BBC News.
- Item E: *Gender and education: the evidence on pupils in England*, DfES, 2007.  
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- Item F: photo: Yellow Dog Productions, © Getty Images. Text adapted from *Fathers to get six months' paternity leave*, H MULHOLLAND. Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2010.
- Item G: *Divorces in England and Wales, 2009*, ONS, [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)  
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